

HO-4

## Red House Tavern

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 05-03-2004***

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RED HOUSE TAVERN  
Cooksville

eighteenth century

Private

The Red House Tavern was originally the mid way stopping point for travelers between Frederick and Baltimore, twenty-three miles to Baltimore and twenty-four to Frederick. It is located along an abandoned stretch of the Old Frederick Road and is said to be the birthplace of Thomas Cook after whom Cooksville was named. It is a 1½ story stone house, three bays wide and two deep whose most distinguished architectural feature is its high pitched gable roof with dormers and a wide central chimney inset into the south wall. An additional one and a half story frame north wing lies on its north wall. The building faces east with a central doorway flanked by double-hung windows with original sashes held by wooden pegs.

Ferdinand M. Bayard, a French writer, visited here in 1791 and the Reverend Isaac Van Bibber, noted clergyman in 1844. Presently occupied as a residence, it is hoped that it will survive any planned future development in the area.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Red House Tavern				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Some 200 feet near the northwest corner of Routes 97 and 144				
CITY OR TOWN: Cooksville				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Howard		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)		<b>OWNERSHIP</b>		<b>STATUS</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious    _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific    _____				
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: H.B.L. Properties, Ince. (E. Brooklee)				
STREET AND NUMBER: Sweepstakes Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Damascus		STATE: Maryland		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records				
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Court House				
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City		STATE: Maryland		21043
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax Map #8, p. 93				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b> /406-237 125.73 A				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland		
		21401		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</span> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Fair</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Ruins</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Altered</span> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered</span> </div> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Moved</span> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site</span> </div> </div> </div>
<div style="font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE</div> <p>The Red House Tavern is located some 200 feet from the northwest intersection of Routes 97 and 70 on the west side of Route 97. Its high pitched gable roof running north-south and holding dormer windows lends a peculiar charm to this otherwise simple stone structure.</p> <p>The house has been constructed in two sections which rest on stone foundations. The original south wing has been constructed of coarse stone, one and a half stories high, three bays wide and two bays deep, while the newer frame north wing is two bays wide, two bays deep and one and one half stories high housing the present kitchen.</p> <p>The east elevation of the original wing holds a simple rectangular front entrance approached by 3 steps and flanked by rectangular double-hung first floor windows with original sashes held by wooden pegs. The original six-over-six lites are now 3/6 and 6/6 on this wall. These presently need to be restored. The windows are decorated with flat wooden lintels and projecting flat wooden sills.</p> <p>The south elevation of the original wing is the most pleasing with its deeply set widely spaced first and second floor windows and wide central chimney which enhance the width of the second floor A-shaped south wall.</p> <p>Five dormer windows are set into the gabled roof of both wings, both of which run north-south; two are placed on the east elevation of the stone house, two on its west and one on the west elevation of the frame addition. The dormers of the original stone wing hold rectangular double-hung windows with four-over-four lites. Pilasters are applied on each side. The dormer of the addition hold an eight lite casement window. A square brick chimney is placed west of center on the north wall of the south wing.</p> <p>The first floor windows of the original structure are all double-hung and originally held six-over-six lites. Presently they hold varied lites as the repair of the window glass and replacement has been dictated by what remained of the original sash.</p> <p>The north facade of the original structure holds second floor double-hung windows with six-over-six lites and a basement casement window with four-four lites, decorated with 2-2 vertical lites.</p> <p>The north wall of the north wing holds two double-hung first floor windows (now 2 over 2 on the east bay).</p> <p>Its south wall holds a six-over-six basement window.</p> <p>The interior plan of the house has been altered. Originally, the kitchen was located in the basement, beneath the living room which at one time held three rooms. The north wing now accommodates a basement kitchen and is approached by four descending stone steps to a rectangular entrance door, with the dining room now located where the original kitchen functioned. Basement windows with iron bars on the east wall of the original structure were located under the two first floor windows. As this was used as a kitchen, the bars prevented pilfering of food. This arrangement is found in Athol, too and appears to have been a common practice in the early houses.</p> <p>A chimney vase in the west bay of the north wall of the present dining room and original kitchen does not function. A batten wood door covers a  <div style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">(continued)</div> </p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
<b>SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)</b>			
<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Red House Tavern is significant both architecturally and historically.

Architecturally it is representative of the fine stone houses which dot the Howard County countryside. Built with a high pitched gable roof which accommodated a second floor but was taxed for one, its south elevation gives a peculiarly pleasing effect.

A frame north wing has been added at a later date which in no way deprives the building of its original profile from the south.

Considered one of the oldest landmarks and best known taverns, it is located on an abandoned stretch of the Old Frederick Road and served as the midway stopping point between Baltimore and Frederick for travelers. Notable visitors included Ferdinand M. Bayard, a French writer who journeyed through Maryland and Virginia in the summer of 1791. George Washington is reputed to have spent a night here and in 1844 the Reverend Isaac Van Bibber, noted Episcopal clergyman, spent some time here.

From Bayard's book, Travels of a Frenchman in Maryland and Virginia we get a date of 1791. It is reputed to be much earlier and to have been the birthplace of Thomas Cook, after whom Cooksville was named.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holland, Celia M. Landmarks of Howard County, Maryland. University Park, 1975.

Warfield, J.D. Founders of Ann Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland. Baltimore, 1973.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Tax Map 8, p. 93

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125.73A

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist		
ORGANIZATION Office of Planning & Zoning, Comprehensive Planning		DATE
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Court House Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE Maryland	21043

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Red House Tavern - Description (Continued)

The large south chimney serves two fireplaces which come to a V and indicate this area of the room was divided into two rooms while a third fireplace in the northwest corner served a third room.

A log house with gabled roof lies southwest of the structure with a barn still further west. The Old Frederick Road is now a driveway from Route 97 running along the south side of the house and its out buildings. Presently used as a home for Mr. Roy Stevens and his family, it remains as a vantage of what was once a tavern and inn on a well-traveled road.

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P/O P.33

HOODS

P.36

C. DAGGETT  
172/69  
G.68A.  
P.35

P.179

THOMAS G.  
OYSTER & W.F.  
& GIFFORD DYE  
445/619  
9.13A.  
P.163

P.126

T.G. OYSTER  
& GIFFORD D  
402/811  
124.66  
P.180

H.B.L. PROPERTIES, INC.  
406/237  
125.73A.  
P.93

P.40

AUSTIN MILL  
INC.  
349/483  
15A.  
P.63

JOS. B.  
BERKE, ET AL  
347/44

P.158

VON BARBY, HANS  
& AMOROSO NOMITA  
W/R 15/131  
62.70A.  
P.148

THE RED HOUSE  
TAVERN  
HO-4 DISTRICT 4  
TAX MAP #8

J. J. CAVANAUGH, ET AL  
407/49  
P.176

3.27A.  
P.85

P.161

P.183

FREDERICK

PIKE

UGENE J.  
ATTANEO & W.F.  
477/365  
13.96A.  
P.26

437/734  
7.17A.

FRANK  
N.R. PERILLA  
328/59  
9.36A.  
P.27

H.F.  
WOLFING  
495/90  
5.02A.  
P.216

P.124

JOHN H. MCCANN  
271/12  
39.58A.  
P.78

J.B.  
BERKE  
485/401  
8.05A.  
P.79

40

FREDERICK RD

OLD

AL.





HO-4 - DIST 4  
RED HOUSE TAYLOR  
MHT



HO. 4

214A

188 Apr '72

Red House Tavern log cabin



HO. 4

212A

Red House Tavern #

Apr 72

888